

For Immediate Release

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City Requests Proposals for Public Art – Trail of Tears Mural on Tsa La Gi Trail

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The City of Fayetteville and [Fayetteville Arts Council](#) seeks Request for Proposals (RFP) for a mural on the Tsa La Gi Trail. Information about the RFP and the project can be found on this [webpage](#). The deadline for applications is Monday, March 20, 2017. Any artist or team of artists with public art, mural or large-scale painting experience. Artists of Native American heritage are encouraged to apply.

The City of Fayetteville received an appropriation from the State of Arkansas in 1999 “for improvements to Trail of Tears sites in Washington County, Arkansas.” The forced relocation route of the Cherokee is called the Trail of Tears because of the journey’s devastating effects. In January of 1839, a detachment of Cherokee camped along a creek and up the hill from what is currently the intersection of Highway 16/Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK) and Stadium Drive. On the north side of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard – a historical marker was placed in 1998 and in 2002 noted artist Pat Musick placed one of her 22 sculpture installations titled “Stone Songs on the Trail of Tears” in the same area.

In 2014, the City opened a section of multi-use path (trail) section south of and parallel to MLK. Approximately 94,000 individuals use this section of trail annually according to a 2015 trail count. The trail is named the Tsa La Gi Trail in remembrance of the Cherokee journey. “Tsa La Gi” translates as “Cherokee” in the Cherokee language. A portion of the trail runs through a tunnel underneath the Arkansas Missouri Railroad rail line. City staff has identified the exterior wing walls on the east side of the tunnel as an ideal place for a mural that will fulfill the requirements of the state appropriation while also acting as an aesthetic educational tool for the public. The mural is expected to be completed in the fall of 2017.

The City encourages the public to share information about this public art project by directing people to www.fayetteville-ar.gov/TrailOfTearsMural and by sharing this [11” x 17” poster](#) and/or [web graphic](#).

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